

# Editors' CHOICE

## *Big Five Tours & Expeditions*

BIG FIVE TOURS & EXPEDITIONS ([www.bigfive.com](http://www.bigfive.com)) has been providing customized luxury travel for individuals and groups for over 35 years to exotic destinations in Africa, Asia, the Orient, Latin America, the Polar Regions, and the South Pacific. The mission of Big Five is to enrich lives and expand understanding through tailor-made journeys that deliver style, substance, comfort, and value to guests.

The company offers travelers a range of options from small ship exotic cruises to adventure safaris, and from engaging family-oriented luxury tours to delightfully romantic honeymoons. Each trip emphasizes culture, history, and nature while providing each traveler with a luxurious and engaging adventure.

In addition to offering the latest destinations, the company also focuses on low-impact, sustainable tourism that supports environmentally responsible lodgings and cruise boats.

Most notable is Big Five's 24-hour White Glove Service® guest assistance desk, which

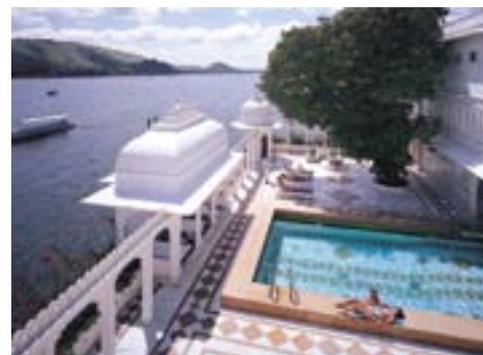
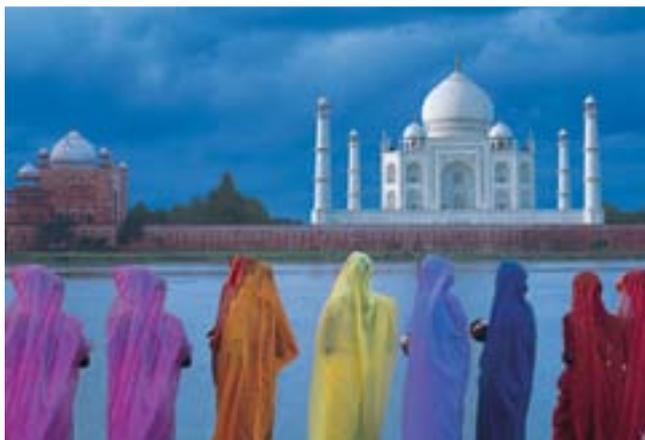
is manned by a team of specialists available 365 days from anywhere in the world. White Glove Service® guest assistance will begin before guests leave home, with a phone call to introduce them to the services available, which includes 24-hour access to Big Five's concierge team, meaning they can speak to a live person who can take immediate action on their behalf. Other services offered can be customized to the degree the client needs, and range from restaurant recommendations to personalized gift services for the selection, wrapping, and delivery of one-of-a-kind gifts. Guests will also be able to access up-to-the-minute information on everything from stock quotes to relevant travel delays as well as a host of emergency services at no additional charge.

It is just one component of a travel experience that is fully designed to cater to each guest's every need. Big Five's worldwide operations network also provides all guests with the security of a local experienced travel professional, solely focused on each

guest's satisfaction, ensuring each itinerary is handled flawlessly, as well as offering complete assistance in the event of an emergency. Additionally, the professional will secure the best vehicles, guides, hotels, and cruise vessels of their type, thereby taking that burden off the guest. The one-on-one experience begins as soon as a guest reaches out to Big Five, at which time he or she will receive a professional travel consultation with a dedicated Destination Specialist, who has personally experienced the guest's itinerary. Their team has been assembled from 10 different countries over five different continents, and together, they speak 11 different languages.

In addition to other notable awards, Big Five has been consistently awarded World's Best Tours Operators and Safari Outfitters by *Travel+Leisure* magazine since 1999.

For those travelers eager to have every single detail handled from start to finish so they may enjoy their vacations in full, Big Five is the ideal choice. ●



*Clockwise from top left: Taj Mahal (Agra); Rambagh Palace (Jaipur) Historical Suite; Lake Palace (Udaipur) Terrace; Lake Palace – private dining on a pontoon; Lake Palace Sarcari Suite; Rambagh Palace exterior; Rambagh Palace Polo Lounge (header)*